

SUMTER L. LOWRY
CITIZENLYNDON B. JOHNSON
PRESIDENT

AN OPEN LETTER

from a

CITIZEN of FLORIDA

to the

PRESIDENT of the UNITED STATES

April 27, 1964

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I write this letter to you to say some things which are in the minds of a great many people in the United States today.

Our country is engaged in an undeclared war with international communism, the results of which can be just as deadly and just as final as if it were an all-out shooting war. Our enemy, Russia, has repeatedly stated her objective is to win this war, destroy the United States of America and conquer the world.

A review of the progress of this war against communism shows that the United States is losing this conflict. The people of the United States are dissatisfied with the conduct of this war and are frightened as to its outcome. The weak, compromising and cowardly foreign policy pursued by our government over the last fifteen years is responsible for the condition we find our country in today.

As the people see it and as results show this is the foreign policy of the United States of America:

(a) Not to win the war against communism but to co-exist with and to get along with it—to tolerate communism as a necessary evil which we are unwilling to destroy.

(b) When confronted by a crisis brought on by communism in any part of the world the standard procedure of our government is to:

1. Wait as long as possible before acting.
2. Take no positive action until forced to do so by public pressure.
3. Then to do as little as possible—just enough to quiet the people.
4. When time passes and the people forget—go back to the same condition as existed before the crisis.
5. But in all cases never carry through to a complete and victorious conclusion.
6. When Russia is down—go to her aid. Help her to get back on her feet so she can take up her fight against us—but never let her fall because then we might win the war which is the last thing our State Department would want. Our plan is to co-exist but never to win.

(c) Every action and all decisions of our government in dealing with communism is built around the word "FEAR". In every crisis manufactured by world communism our State Department is governed by Fear.

They will: Take any insult—Submit to public humiliation—See our flag spit on by communist mobs—Overlook the murder of our soldiers and citizens. But they never—never will do anything to make the communists mad. They just stand and take their insults like scared rabbits.

This policy is a sad departure from the past courageous position which made our country great.

(d) The most damaging plank in the State Department's foreign policy is their gift of respectability to Khrushchev. Our country deliberately built Khrushchev up in the eyes of the world as a respectable man knowing full well he was not respectable. We gave Khrushchev the one thing he had to have in order to be a world leader and to be effective as captain of the forces dedicated to our destruction—that one thing was respectability. This was a completely unnecessary and dishonest thing for us to do. It was betrayal not only of this country, but of the people of the entire world who accepted our evaluation of this man and have followed our lead in dealing with him. By committing this act our government has adopted the philosophy that you can overcome evil by consorting and compromising with it. This cannot be done. If you embrace evil you will be overcome by evil. God will not prosper a nation who will be a party to this unholy doctrine.

(e) Finally, Khrushchev has been built up and is now accepted as a man of peace. You, yourself, proclaim him to be a man of peace—when he is not a man of peace—he is a man of war, vigorously pursuing war all over the world—even here in our United States.

Mr. President, to refresh your memory on the insults we have taken in recent years I list herewith the record of twenty unarmed American planes that have been shot down by Russian military aircraft between 1950 and 1964. Each one of these twenty attacks was a brutal, unprovoked and open act of war, which we accept with only a weak protest—a shameful record indeed.

April 8, 1950	Baltic Sea	No survivors
Nov. 6, 1951	Sea of Japan	No survivors
Nov. 19, 1951	Hungary	Crew imprisoned
Oct. 7, 1952	At sea near Yui Island	No survivors
March 15, 1953	North Pacific Area	Plane fled, crew escaped
July 29, 1953	Sea of Japan	8 dead—9 survivors
Sept. 4, 1954	40 miles at sea from Siberia	No survivors

Nov. 7, 1954	Over Japan	Loss of life undetermined
June 3, 1955	Bering Sea	Crew members injured
June 27, 1958	Armenia	Plane forced down—no casualties
Sept. 2, 1958	Armenia	No survivors
Sept. 7, 1958	Baltic Sea	Plane fled—crew escaped
April 30, 1960	Russia shot down US unarmed plane U-2 over Russian territory	Soviet Supreme delegates cheered the announcement made by Khrushchev
May 21, 1960	Unarmed American plane forced down over East Germany by Soviet fighter plane	9 Americans aboard—all captured—unhurt
July 1, 1960	At sea—50 miles from Russia—RB-47 plane	3 killed—2 captured
Dec. 28, 1960	Over Laos	Plane escaped
March 27, 1961	Over Laos	Casualties unknown
Nov. 3, 1963	Over Cuba—Major Anderson—U-2 plane	1 killed
Jan. 29, 1964	Over East Germany—jet plane—T-39 type	3 killed
March 11, 1964	Over East Germany—twin jet plane	3 shot down 1 wounded

For fourteen years we have watched the Russians shoot down our unarmed planes, murder our men, humiliating us before the world, and what have we done about it? Nothing—we just stand like cowards and take it. To me, it is utterly fantastic that the great United States would sink so low as to allow the dictators of Russia to frighten us so badly that we won't avenge the death of our own men. The best we can do is to send polite notes to Russia saying "We are unhappy about it. Please don't do it again."

I also list newspaper accounts of sixty-four times that our country has been insulted and its people humiliated, murdered and degraded all over the world by acts inspired by our communist enemies:

Sept., 1958	"Americans killed by Iraq mob — 3 U.S. citizens dragged from hotel and beaten to death while soldiers stand and watch."
June, 1958	Castro kidnapped 35 Marines in uniform and carried them to his mountain stronghold.
May, 1958	A communist-led mob in Venezuela spit in the face of Mr. Nixon, Vice President of the United States.
Nov. 3, 1959	A communist inspired mob in Panama attacked the U.S. Embassy, tore down the American flag and insulted our country, while the Panamanian police stood by and watched.
May 8, 1960	A Cuban patrol boat, without provocation, fired on U.S. Submarine in the open sea.
May 18, 1960	Before collapse of Paris Summit conference — Khrushchev at public news conference called Eisenhower "a liar, a thief and a fish."
May 20, 1960	In East Berlin just after collapse of Summit conference, Khrushchev called Vice President Nixon a "goat."
May 28, 1960	Andrei Gromyko accused President Eisenhower of being "untrustworthy" before United Nations Assembly.
May, 1960	Khrushchev withdraws his invitation to President Eisenhower to visit Russia.
June, 1960	Japan cancelled invitation for President Eisenhower to visit Japan because of fear for his life and safety. Havana Radio Station said "Firing squad today executed Anthony Zarba of Somerville, Massachusetts."
October, 1960	Havana—"U.S. Embassy Clerk shot in Havana."
November, 1960	Leopoldville—"Congo mob stabs American youth."
November, 1960	Cali, Colombia — "American Flag was burned and its ashes stamped on last night at a communist demonstration here."
November, 1960	Leopoldville—"Congo mob mauls 4 Americans."
December, 1960	Quito, Ecuador—"Mob dragged U.S. Flag through the streets and stoned cultural centers."
Dec. 27, 1960	Washington—"Tito Raps West—Gets U.S. Loan—America to put up one hundred million dollars."
January, 1961	On high seas, East of Brazil—"Portuguese rebel, Captain Galvao forces U.S. Admiral meet for parley at sea to discuss freeing American passengers."
February, 1961	Cairo, Egypt—"Cairo mob burns U.S. Embassy car."
February, 1961	Cairo, Egypt—"Students attack U.S. Embassy."
April, 1961	Mexico City—"Leftist students today began a mass 'hate' Yankee Rally."
April, 1961	Panmunjom, Korea—"A Communist Major pushed and slapped a U.S. Captain—and got away with it."
April, 1961	Moscow, Russia—"A mob of 2,000 students smashed windows in the United States Embassy."